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**TAJIKISTAN**

## FIRST PERSON Embroidery Earns Income

**A girl turns her hobby into a business through USAID funded programs.**



Photo: Junior Achievement

Zarina Juraboyeva at a 2007 Junior Achievement trade fair in Sugd Region, Tajikistan.

***"I advise everyone to get involved in entrepreneurial activities. Entrepreneurship brings freedom, independence and financial stability".***

- Zarina Juraboyeva, participant of the USAID-funded Junior Achievement programs

Zarina Juraboyeva is one of the happiest girls in the Ovchi Kalacha district, Sugd Region, Tajikistan, because she turned her dream of becoming a businesswoman into reality.

Her dream started gaining shape when Zarina joined the USAID-funded Junior Achievement programs at her school several years ago. From the sixth grade on, she participated in all Junior Achievement programs, whether it was an economics course, a school company project, a competition, or an essay contest.

Since her childhood Zarina had a great interest in embroidery. By studying the basics of entrepreneurship and economics through Junior Achievement programs, she realized that her talent in embroidery could become a source of income for her family.

At her school Zarina formed a group of eight girls who were interested in sewing and embroidery and taught them how to embroider. The girls started producing various pieces of embroidery to sell in their village. Before too long, they were in high demand, not only selling all of their products, but also receiving orders for custom-made pieces. The girls decided to invest the profit gained from sales in the development of their business – sewing machines, fabric, and other supplies.

Now Zarina is a successful leader of a small profitable business. She hopes to earn enough money to pay for university studies, where she would like to further develop her business knowledge. "I couldn't believe that my dreams will become a reality, but knowledge acquired from USAID programs made it happen. I advise everyone to get involved in entrepreneurial activities. Entrepreneurship brings freedom, independence and stability", says Zarina.